

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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OAU COLLECTIVE 0017

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UG, IS, KE, MO, MR

SUBJECT: 13TH ORDINARY OAU SUMMIT ENDS IN SUPERFICIAL AND
ONLY PARTIAL AFRICAN UNITY

SUMMARY: THE OAU SUMMIT, ALREADY EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY OVER
THE DJIBOUTI ISSUE AND TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT WESTERN SAHARA,
WAS BADLY SHAKEN BY THE ISRAELI COMMANDO ACTION IN UGANDA AND THE
SUDANESE COUP ATTEMPT. NEVERTHELESS, THE 13TH ORDINARY OAU SUMMIT
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ENDED EARLY ON JULY 6 UNITED IN ITS CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL'S

ACTION IN ENTEBBE, IN ITS CRITICISM OF FRANCE FOR ITS MAYOTTE POLICY AND FOR THE SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA. MORE DIFFICULT ISSUES INVOLVING THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL INTERESTS OF AFRICAN STATES (SUCH AS LOS, CERTAIN TYPES OF RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, ETC.) WERE SENT TO STUDY COMMITTEES WHERE DECISIONS ON THEM COULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL AT LEAST THE FEBRUARY 1977 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN ADDIS. ALL FOUR OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL WERE ASKED TO REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF ADMIN SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA'S TERM IS COMPLETED IN 1978. AT THAT TIME, THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERALSHIPS, EACH ONE REPRESENTING A DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AREA. THE DJIBOUTI RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT SPECIFIC SOMALI RESERVATION. THE SUMMIT DECIDED TO CALL AN EXTRAORDINARY OAU SUMMIT TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA. DELEGATES HOPED THIS EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT WOULD BE HELD WITHIN ONE MONTH BUT CERTAINLY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. OAU DELEGATES UNANIMOUSLY CRITICIZED ISRAEL FOR THE COMMANDO OPERATION IN ENTEBBE. KENYAN VICE PRESIDENT ARAP MOI MADE A STATEMENT DENOUNCING ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND CLAIMING THAT KENYA WAS "AGGRESSED" AGAINST BY ISRAEL AS WELL. HE TRACED THE PROBABLE ISRAELI FLIGHT PATH, AND STATED THAT ISRAEL HAD PROBABLY VIOLATED THE AIRSPACE OF OTHER AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TACIT KENYAN SUPPORT FOR THE ISRAELI OPERATION WAS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED PRIVATELY BY OAU DELEGATES, THERE WAS NO PUBLIC OR OVERT CRITICISM OF KENYA OVER THE OPERATION OTHER THAN AMIN'S MESSAGE TO THE CONFERENCE READ BY HIS REPRESENTATIVE. END COMMENT.

2. IN AN EARLIER STATEMENT UGANDAN FORMIN LT. COL. JUMA ORIS DESCRIBED THE ISRAELI ACTION WHICH HAD DESTROYED 7 MIG 21'S, 4 MIG 17'S AND SEVERAL CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO ORIS "THE TREACHEROUS ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED AND DIRECTED FROM THE SOIL OF THE NEIGHBORING STATE OF KENYA." ORIS CALLED FOR TOTAL CONDEMNATION OF AN AFRICAN STATE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE "HER TERRITORY TO ZIONIST AND COLONIST COMMANDOS TO INVADE ANOTHER AFRICAN STATE".

3. LIBERIA SPONSORED AND THE SUMMIT ADOPTED A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEP ALARM AT THE "ISRAELI AGGRESSION" WHICH IT HELD CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BE A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE. SUCH AGGRESSION, THE RESOLUTION CONTINUED, IS THE RESULT OF ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION WHICH LIBERIA STRONGLY CONDEMNED. THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION "THWARTED" PRESIDENT AMIN'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE HOSTAGES' RELEASE, THE RESOLUTION SAID.

4. THE SUMMIT AGREED THAT A SPECIAL OAU SUMMIT WOULD BE HELD TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA. IT WAS HOPED THAT THIS

MEETING WOULD BE HELD WITHIN ONE MONTH BUT AT THE LATEST BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. AFTER THE JULY 3 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VOTE TO RECONSIDER THE WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION, MOROCCAN DELEGATES REFUSED TO TAKE PART IN SUMMIT DELIBERATIONS. MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, HOWEVER, REMAINED AND STAUNCHLY DEFENDED THE MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN POSITION.

5. THE SUMMIT ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHANGE THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON DJIBOUTI WHICH CALLS UPON ALL STATES TO REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN FTAI INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND TO ABSTAIN FROM ANY ACTION LIKELY TO IMPEDE OR ADVERSELY AFFECT PROGRESS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE. THE RESOLUTION URGES ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND GROUPS AS WELL AS THE TWO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU TO HOLD A ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE ON NEUTRAL GROUND UNDER OAU AUSPICES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A COMMON POLITICAL PLATFORM BEFORE AN INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM. IT DIRECTS THE OAU FACT-FINDING MISSION TO OBSERVE THE REFERENDUM AND SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS AND TO ASSIST IN THE DETERMINATION OF REFUGEE STATUS ON THE BASIS OF THE FACT-FINDING MISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE PROPOSED ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE WILL PROBABLY BE HELD AT ACCRA DURING THE FIRST HALF OF AUGUST.

6. ALL FOUR OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL WERE ASKED TO REMAIN IN THEIR POSITIONS UNTIL 1978 SO THAT THEIR TENURE WOULD COINCIDE WITH THAT OF OAU ADMIN SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI. AT THAT TIME, THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FOUR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG FIVE REGIONS TO INCLUDE THE NEWLY AGREED UPON SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION. (THE OTHER FOUR REGIONS ARE NORTHERN, WESTERN, EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA).

7. ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE FINAL REACTION OF OAU MEMBERS TO THE ISRAELI ACTION IN UGANDA, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL GO BEYOND THE RITUAL CONDEMNATION MADE AT THE SUMMIT.
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MOST PROBABLY, NIGERIAN FORMIN GARBA'S STATEMENT (CF PORT LOUIS 576) WILL HOLD TRUE: THERE IS LITTLE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN INTEREST IN EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. AS FAR AS WE COULD TELL, OTHER MULTILATERAL ISSUES, SUCH AS PUERTO RICO AND KOREA, WERE TOTALLY MISSING FROM THE OAU DELIBERATIONS.

8. COMMENT: THE 13TH ORDINARY SUMMIT HAD THE SMALLEST ATTENDANCE OF AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON RECORD. (BONGO OF GABON, JAWARA OF GAMBIA, SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA, OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA, NIMEIRI OF SUDAN, RAMGOOLAM OF MAURITIUS, MANCHAM OF SEYCHELLES, AMIN OF UGANDA, TEFERI OF ETHIOPIA.) DECISIONS ON DIFFICULT AND DIVISIVE ISSUES SUCH AS LOS AND CERTAIN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WERE POSTPONED. AN EXCEPTION WAS THE RESOLUTION ON DJIBOUTI WHERE ALL AFRICAN NATIONS COULD AGREE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE AND INDEPENDENCE

FOR THE TERRITORY. THE WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE, HOWEVER, ALMOST SPLIT THE CONFERENCE. WESTERN SAHARA REMAINS A BURNING PROBLEM AND MUST BE DEALT WITH SOON. DELEGATES AND SECRETARIAT MEMBERS WORKED DILIGENTLY AND WITH DEDICATION BUT REPEATEDLY ADMITTED TO EMBOFF AND OTHER "OUTSIDERS" THAT THE OAU IS PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN "BLAH-BLAH" (USELESS TALK) INSTEAD OF CONCRETE, DECISIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MATTERS.

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